

CountyCitizen

Fall 2002

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Health Services Keeping promises...saving lives

**Taking Part in Shaping
our Future**

**Hundreds turn out for
Strategic Planning Event**

**Hurricane Andrew
Ten Years Later**



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SPEAKING *Of*

Our Town

This is a glorious town – filled with texture and temperament, with cultures and cadences, with languages and laughter, and filled with all the idiosyncrasies of humanity – both good and not so good. This is our town, Miami-Dade County, and I'm proud of the 30,000 county employees who make it perhaps the most electrifying community in America.

We are a crossroads town. A place of immigrants and exiles, black, white and brown – and every hue in between. Born elsewhere, born here, believing in God, believing in the American dream, believing that here we can go as far as our ability and courage will take us.

And, it is our county employees – who make it so livable and enjoyable.

Each day, when we turn on the faucet, clean water comes out. Our wonderful police department has made us one of the safest communities in the entire country. We fight the forces of nature: floods, and droughts, and eroding beaches. We collect the garbage.

We fill potholes and make the parks fun and safe; we guard our environment like hawks; we drive the buses and find beds for our unfortunate homeless. We feed the white tiger at the Metrozoo and put out fires in our homes.

In fact, our heroic Urban Search & Rescue division sped to New York to try to save people at the World Trade Center – as they do at other catastrophes throughout the world. At this, we are the undisputed best in the world.

Our county employees are finding ways to fight traffic and give the people who live here transportation to work and play. We are working to draw people from everywhere to our hotels and attractions. Last year, we had more than 10 million overnight visitors at our hotels, and this year – September 11 notwithstanding – we are probably going to have more.

What is it that makes this land of tall buildings – majestic and graceful – and swamps – lonely and forbidding – so intriguing? Sunsets and terrifying storms and beaches stretching white and wide as far as the eye can see what makes it so controversial? Why does this diversified town made up of people who speak 100 languages and sing a thousand different songs attract so much passion – much of it good, some of it bad, none of it indifferent?

Perhaps it is because we are not docile people.

We feel strongly about everything. We bicker and cajole and plead and argue. Unlike communities that have had centuries to develop a more compliant personality, we are young and boisterous and ambitious.

This is the promised land where everything is possible. This both excites and infuriates people.

For many of these reasons, we are fun to tease. Media revel in uncovering every bizarre thing that happens in this community – and we do have a few.

But, all that aside, we are a town of hard-working, well-meaning people. We take care of our families, and we raise our children, and we go to our jobs.

As the people who every day make this county work, we who serve the public sometimes bristle at the things that are said about our town.

We need not. Because we know better.

This is our town and we are proud of it.



Alex Penelas
Miami-Dade County Mayor



Taking part in shaping our future

The summer months have usually been associated with downtime in county government. This is a time when our commission recesses and many take vacations. However, the reality is that we are hard at work this summer for our residents.

In fact, our fine employees and elected officials recently hosted an unprecedented strategic planning forum on June 19. More than 900 residents, elected officials, county administrators, and members from the business and academic communities took part in the landmark effort in planning for the future of our county at the James L. Knight International Center. The purpose of this daylong, resident-driven event was to give residents a voice in ensuring the county spends their tax dollars sensibly and in the areas of greatest need.

Any corporate entity or even sports franchise could not succeed without a strategic plan or playbook. This event and all the groundwork, which began more than one year ago, were designed to develop our playbook together, as a community. Our playbook will consist of a mission statement, a vision statement and guiding principles that will steer our budget and service delivery beginning in fiscal year 2003-04.

At the forum, six strategic breakout sessions took place on economic development; health and human services; neighborhood and unincorporated area municipal services; public safety; transportation; and recreation and culture. Participants evaluated a list of preliminary goals in each area gathered from previous community meetings and surveys and then voted on their priority level.

A complete report on the strategic planning forum will be posted on the county's web portal, miamidade.gov, and will be sent to all participants in the next few weeks.

I want to thank the Office of Performance Improvement (OPI) and the Communications Department for working on the historic strategic planning process, which will continue through next year's budget process.

In addition to strategic planning, Miami-Dade employees are also giving residents a voice through a comprehensive customer service survey. In the next few weeks, OPI, in collaboration with the highly respected Hay Group, will be conducting a scientific resident satisfaction survey to help us further align our services with residents' priorities.

While we're discussing summer activities, I want to thank the Office of Management and Budget and all our department directors for their assistance in helping me develop the FY 2002-03 Proposed County Budget, which I released on May 30. It maintains current county millage rates in total, while employing technology and efficiencies to maintain most service levels and internal operations. In fact, the total combined county millage rate is the lowest since FY 1984-85.

The total proposed budget is \$5.63 billion. Of that, \$2.24 billion is capital and \$3.39 billion is operating.

As in the previous year, it emphasizes three guiding principles for the next fiscal year: people, service, and technology. In addition, we felt it was important to develop the budget around four main themes – overcoming 9/11 challenges, responsible budgeting, a balanced approach and the incorporation of a business model approach to government administration.

Preparing a proposed county budget for this government has been especially challenging this year. However, I believe we presented a responsible, realistic budget based on restraint and innovation. I look forward to working with the members of the Board and the Mayor throughout the upcoming budget process.

The bottom line is that we can't do the work we do without the invaluable input of our employees. So while many residents enjoy summer vacations and time off with their loved ones, they can rest assured that our county government and its fine employees are working hard for them. As is always the case, please feel free to contact me directly at 305-375-1032 or at manager@miamidade.gov.



Steve Shiver
County Manager



Hundreds turn out for Strategic Planning Event, Wednesday, June 19

Mayor and Manager challenge staff to deliver results

By Ruth Kimbrough

Hundreds of everyday residents, elected officials, county administrators, and members from the business and academic community turned out for a landmark effort in planning for the future of our county on Wednesday, June 19 at the James L. Knight International Center.

More than 900 people showed up to assist county officials to plan and prioritize the county's needs. The day began at 8:30 a.m. with opening remarks from Senator Gwen Margolis, Commissioner of District 4 and chair of the Board of County Commissioners; Donna Shalala, President of the University of Miami, Rosa Sugranes, chairperson of Iberia Tiles Corporation and chairperson of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council; T. Willard Fair, President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Miami; and Marlene Bastien, president of Haitian Women of Miami. County Manager Steve Shiver served as master of ceremonies setting the tone for the discussions early by explaining the purpose behind strategic planning.

"Any corporate entity or even sports franchise could not succeed without a strategic plan or playbook. It is time we develop our playbook together, as a community," Shiver said. With that, the gathering dispersed into the following breakout sessions:

Economic Development – Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle, District 2 opened the session calling for more economic development activity in the county's underserved communities. "We need to stop selling poverty in the inner city," Rolle asserted in remarks that drew applause from the public attending the session. Haitian businessman and community activist Veter Juste observed that while it is widely known that Little Haiti is one of the county's poorest neighborhoods, it is not one of the county's Empowerment Zones. "This is a dynamic community. We should invest in that community," Juste said.

Health and Human Services – This session included discussions on everything from housing and homeownership to raising the quality of healthcare for the mentally ill. Olga Golick of Catholic Charities recommended housing reforms that would target those who are the lowest income earners proposing a 30-30 plan that would channel only 30 percent of housing dollars to the middle 30 percent income earners leaving the remainder for the bottom income earners.

Neighborhood and Unincorporated Area Municipal Service – Commissioners Betty T. Ferguson, District 1 who chairs the BCC's UMSA Committee along with Commissioner José "Pepe" Cancio, District 12, opened the session and stressed the importance of delivering high quality services to all the residents of Miami-Dade County's unincorporated areas. Discussion generally centered on growth, public education on code compliance and improved infrastructure. Community and county staff stressed the need to encourage more infill development in urban areas in an effort to preserve green space and to reduce sprawl. Participants advocated improvements such as new water lines and better road maintenance to meet the demands of a growing Miami-Dade County.

Public Safety – Commissioner Jimmy L. Morales, District 7 opened the session commenting that today, transportation has replaced public safety as South Florida's number one concern – some indication that people are generally satisfied with the police service the county provides. But Morales cautioned that the county should not rest on its laurels. "We should be using 21st century tools to fight crime," he said. Discussions ranged from cultural sensitivity for police and fire personnel to funding programs that encourage kids to lead a crime and drug free life and stay in school. Even street signage that addresses the county's multilingual population was broached.

Transportation – Commissioner Bruno Barreiro opened the session on Transportation. With growing public concern over the state of our transit system, the session on transportation echoed comments heard at other traffic and transit meetings: connect all parts of the county through integrated bus and rail service. Attendees called for a major east-west mass transit corridor and smart urban growth that would encourage people to get out of their cars. Another popular concern: increase frequency and dependency of bus service. On other transportation fronts, attendees expressed support for one-time baggage check-in for people traveling between the Port of Miami and Miami International Airport.

Recreation and Culture – Senator Gwen Margolis opened the session encouraging participants to voice their concerns and ideas. Attendees expressed various needs including improving access to cultural and recreational programs and facilities through public transportation, developing additional cultural and recreational facilities throughout the county and promoting audience development through educational programs.

Closing Comments – Mayor Alex Penelas delivered the closing summary and touched on the next phase of strategic planning: implementation. He said that this phase must be inclusive and leave no member of the public behind. "We opened up the strategic planning process to the community, providing an opportunity for everyone to improve county services and participate in the process," the Mayor said.

The County Manager's Office of Performance Improvement will take the results of these events and begin the work of crafting master plans based on the actions the public recommended that ultimately will be integrated into a countywide strategic plan. With the fiscal year beginning October 2003, each department will incorporate the recommendations into their annual business plans and ultimately be accountable for those goals.

Did-You-Know?...

Thinking about a backyard shed? You should first check with the Planning & Zoning Department to review the zoning code requirements within your zoning district. Homeowners may request an administrative variance to seek approval to have a shed closer to the property lines of your house but the distances are limited and your immediate area neighbors must all be in agreement. In addition, you should check with the Building Department to obtain a permit. The telephone numbers are 305-375-2940 for Zoning Information, and 786-315-2100 for Building Permit Information.

Having a garage sale soon? The county code prohibits the placement of any sign within the public right of way, which includes all roadsides, sidewalks, trees, utility poles and median strips. These signs are considered traffic hazards and are subject to an immediate civil citation (ticket) and removal by Team Metro Compliance Officers.

Walking your dog? Please remember that when you take your dog for a walk, it should always have a leash. County Ordinance, Chapter 5, Section 5-6 states that "dogs must be leashed in public areas. "Every month in Miami-Dade County dogs are responsible for more than 400 bites," said Mark Jeter, enforcement captain, Miami-Dade Animal Control. For questions on regulations and issues about pets, contact Miami-Dade Animal Services at 305-375-884-1101 or visit its website at www.miamidade.gov/animals.

Becoming a roommate? Many single-family homeowners are converting garages and creating additional living spaces in their single-family dwellings. While it is legal to rent, it is illegal to subdivide, prevent access to any room, or create a second kitchen within a single-family home. Check with Zoning information at 305-375-1806 to determine the specific zoning and report any illegal activity to Team Metro.

Is it illegal to park a tow truck in a residential community? A tow truck is allowed to respond to a service call, but must leave once the vehicle is picked up.

Buying a new boat? The county code limits each property owner to one boat less than 26 feet in length and requires its placement behind the front building line and side building line if your home is on a corner street. You may want to check with Team Metro for the proper placement of your new boat at your home.

Additional questions? If you have additional questions, please call the Answer Center at 305-468-5900 or visit your closest Team Metro office. For an online list of locations visit [www.co.miami-dade.fl.us/teametro/locations .htm](http://www.co.miami-dade.fl.us/teametro/locations.htm)

Windjammer Barefoot Cruises begins sailing from Port of Miami

Sporting 40-foot beams and spanning 294 feet, the Windjammer S.V. Legacy is the Dante B. Fascell Port of Miami-Dade's latest showpiece in its fleet of cruise passenger vessels. The Windjammer S.V. Legacy and her crew of 48 set sail for tropical destinations in the Caribbean, from Nassau to Abaco and Grand Bahama to Bimini, allowing passengers to travel on three, four and eight-day cruises.



"The Port of Miami is the first U.S. mainland homeport that Windjammer Barefoot Cruises has utilized," said Seaport Director Charles A. Towsley. "The Legacy makes 13 sailings from the Port of Miami, helping us diversify our cruising experience for those wanting to take to the high seas in an intimate setting."

The S.V. Legacy is a small vessel, with 136-passenger capacity and the ability to offer exciting itineraries that include water sports such as deep-sea fishing, snorkeling, and scuba diving.

GOOD *Service*

Home Care Program serves the most vulnerable

By Howard Russell

The Home Care Program, one of the oldest programs in the Elderly Services Division (ESD) of the Miami-Dade Department of Human Services, has made a major shift in its focus.

Until the 1990s, the typical client was a 70 year old, just beginning to have problems performing their activities of daily living. With a little help from what was then called the Residential Homemaker Program, it was hoped that these elders could remain independent and functioning. Over a thousand people were served each year by a group of home care aides, whose caseloads averaged ten to twelve people a week. Today, the Home Care Program is serving half that number of people, with approximately the same number of aids, whose case loads now average six clients a week.

During the 90s, those over 85 years of age became the fastest growing group of Americans. This trend precipitated a surge of high costs in the nursing home industry. To assist those with low means, home care programs focused on serving the most vulnerable, those at the brink of being institutionalized at a nursing home. Today, the typical Home Care Program recipient is 80 years old and to assist them better, care aides serve fewer people and dedicate much time to each one of them.

The Care Planning Unit (CPU) of ESD is the point of entry for home care services before a full home assessment is conducted. Because there are between 850 to a 1000 people waiting for home care at any given time, CPU's social workers help them get other services like meals, transportation and consumable supplies. CPU also case manages many of the Home Care Program's clients.

Currently, the Home Care Program has 89 home care aides and two chore workers whose dedication and caring wins them praise from their clients. The chore workers help with heavy and seasonal cleaning, trash removal, minor repairs, and some limited painting.



Home care aide assists client.

To qualify for this service, applicants must reside in Miami-Dade County and meet the following criteria: Inability to perform at least two of the following activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, eating, toileting, or unable to perform instrumental activities of daily living such as doing the laundry, grocery shopping, changing bed linens, and preparing meals. This program targets low income people who receive services without charge, and it uses a sliding fee scale for those with moderate income.

To find out more information about this program, you can call 305-576-2511.

Refugee youth to work with artists

By Lea Nickless Verrecchia

More than 240 youngsters who have recently arrived in Miami will work with artists Julio Rodriguez and Adriano Burgos to create permanent public art installations at Tropical Park and Amelia Earhart Park during the coming summer.

Entering its sixth successful year, the Tropical Park and Amelia Earhart Summer Refugee Youth Program focuses on the needs of newly arrived young refugees and provides creative opportunities.

Over the last five years, young people, ages 11 through 18 have created innovative and colorful artworks that are permanent improvements to Tropical Park and Amelia Earhart Park including mosaic murals and planters, a poetic walkway and painted benches. This summer's program will continue through August 23, 2002.



Children creating tile mural for summer project.

The program, a collaborative effort of the Miami-Dade Department of Human Services and Miami-Dade Art in Public Places, is designed to provide the proven benefits of the arts to these at-risk youth: decreased delinquent behavior, increased academic achievement, and improvement in the youth's attitudes about themselves and their future. For these newly arrived refugee youth, the program facilitates important acculturation services and provides a safe forum for youth to voice fears, memories, and dreams. These youth are in the midst of struggling to assimilate in a culture and society that are new to them. Since the program began in 1997, more than 1,130 refugee youth have been served. The program was recognized as a Best Practices for Refugees in 1998 and received an award from NACo (National Association of County Organizations) in 1997.

DIRECT *from the District*

Commissioner Betty T. Ferguson - District 1

Commissioner Ferguson participates in the Carol City Police Station dedication



Miami-Dade Commissioner Betty T. Ferguson (center) was on hand on Wednesday, April 24, for the opening of the \$4.5 million Miami-Dade Carol City Police Station located at 18805 NW 27th Avenue. From left, Assistant Director of Miami-Dade Police, Robert Parker, Patricia Lightfoot, Zolena Bratton, and Miami-Dade Police Director Carlos Alvarez join her.

During the ceremony, Commissioner Ferguson received loud applause for the role she played in getting the station funded and built. About 150 people, including many grassroots community representatives and North Miami Dade leaders, attended the station's dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle - District 2

Miami-Dade Housing Agency Dedicates Infill Homes in the Hope VI Community

Dreams of homeownership came true for two families on May 29 as seven new infill homes were dedicated in a ceremony held at 1690 NW 73rd Street.

"This means the world to me," said Inez Fulton, a former Scott Homes resident who bought the property located at the site of Wednesday's event. "It is a chance for me to show my boys that I can do better than my parents did. I can stand on my own two feet and can purchase my own home."

Fulton and former Carver Homes resident Cynthia Mack joined Miami-Dade Housing Agency (MDHA) staff, Miami-Dade County Mayor Alex Penelas, Miami-Dade Commissioner Dorrin Rolle, and Armando Perez-Aleman, president of Citywide Development Corporation at the dedication ceremony.

"This is a joyous occasion," said Rene Rodriguez, MDHA director. "These homes serve as a reminder of our commitment to providing affordable homeownership to county residents, especially those in and around the HOPE VI target area."



Three more abandoned and unsafe structures were demolished recently. The demolitions took place in the following order, 1780 NW 69th Terrace, 1848 NW 71st Street, 1920 NW 69th Street.

Commissioner Barbara Carey-Shuler - District 3

Commissioner Barbara Carey-Shuler unveils a commemorative plaque in honor of Father John Culmer

On May 22, Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler, Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District 3, unveiled a commemorative plaque honoring the late Father John Culmer at the Culmer Metrorail Station located at 701 NW 11th Street in Overtown.

The ceremony was long overdue since the Metrorail station was named for Father John Culmer in 1984 and a commemorative plaque was not available for installation at the time. Miami-Dade Transit made good on an 18 year-old promise



to properly honor the late Father.

Commissioner Carey-Shuler along with Assistant County Manager Bill Johnson and Miami-Dade Transit Director Danny Alvarez joined family members and friends of the late Father Culmer at this ceremony in tribute to such a great man. Father Culmer was a legend in the community. A man who courageously stood up for his principles, and consistently defended the rights of black Americans during the segregation era. A pioneer and activist, Father Culmer helped South Florida get its first black policeman and was instrumental in securing protection for black citizens to vote without harassment and decried the racial injustices prevalent within the church and the community.

"This is a fitting recognition to a man who has done so much for this community. By unveiling this plaque, the county and community are paying homage to one of South Florida's outstanding individuals," said Commissioner Carey-Shuler.

Senator Gwen Margolis - District 4

Senator Gwen Margolis sponsors Suited for Success and Career Gear-Miami Week at County Hall

From left, Miami-Dade Commissioner Katy Sorenson, Co-Founder/Executive Director Sonia Jacobson, Senator Gwen Margolis (behind sign) and Co-Founder/Program Director Barbara Tifford stand next to the "Suited for Success" and "Career Gear-Miami" both. Events held at County Hall the week of May 6-10, collected clothes that assist low-income, welfare, and homeless men and women with proper business attire for use in job interviews and eventually when they enter the workforce.



dedication ceremony of Greynolds Park on June 15 as it reopened its boathouse. The fun-filled event included free refreshments, entertainment, and canoe rides. Event participants were invited to take a quiet paddle around the park's mangrove-lined lake. Greynolds is a 265-acre park on the banks of the Oleta River. Dedicated on March 29, 1936, it is the second oldest Miami-Dade County Park (Matheson Hammock Park opened in 1930). Its more than 90 acres of natural areas contain hardwood hammocks, pine flatwoods, estuarine and marine communities.

Senator Gwen Margolis, District 4 Commissioner and Chairperson of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, was on hand for the

Commissioner Rebeca Sosa - District 6

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Rebeca Sosa continues her work on behalf of the citizens of District 6, building on the accomplishments of the past year and looking towards the important issues of the future. She is committed to giving a voice to the residents of her district and opening the lines of communication between them and their county government.

In April, Commissioner Sosa held a town hall meeting at South Hialeah Elementary. This was a significant event for nearby residents because it had been some time since a commissioner had held a town hall meeting in that part of the district.

The Commissioner also celebrated National Library Week on April 15 at Fairlawn Regional Library, where she read to local students gathered there for the event. "As a teacher and mother, I know firsthand that reading to children encourages them to become avid readers," said Commissioner Sosa. "I am a firm believer that literacy is a key to individual success. I am excited to be part of the Miami-Dade Public Library's "Community Leaders Read@Your Libraries" program."



Commissioner Sosa reads to students at the Fairlawn Branch Library during National Library Week.

On May 22, Commissioner Sosa honored the Coast Guard Group of Miami with a proclamation for their constant and dedicated efforts in keeping South Florida waters safe. The proclamation was presented to the group during a ceremony commemorating National Boat Safety Week.

Commissioner Rebeca Sosa continues her "open door" policy and invites her constituents to visit the district office to share their concerns and present suggestions to her and her staff. The office is located at 6429 SW 8th Street and is open 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

Community Action Agency provides free hurricane shutters

By Phares Poliard

The Miami-Dade Community Action Agency (CAA) has partnered with Project Impact Residential Shuttering Program, community based organizations and various municipalities to provide free hurricane shutters and installation to low income elderly homeowners. The program is a private-public partnership established by FEMA to promote disaster resistance nationwide.



Community Action Agency and contractor install hurricane shutters.

Since this program began in May, CAA has received 928 applications. Eight hundred thirty-nine have been processed and 254 have been approved for installation.

As we approach the peak of hurricane season, senior homeowners are urged to apply immediately. "The program works on a first-come, first-served basis and usually takes approximately 90 to 120 days from the time applicants apply to the day shutters are installed," said Bill Moriarty, Director Energy Program Division, Community Action Agency. "Best of all, this program costs absolutely nothing to qualified applicants."

To qualify for the program, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Own and reside in a single family home.
- Head of household must be 65 years or older.
- Have a household income that does not exceed \$20,000.
- Live within the qualified areas comprised of Unincorporated Miami-Dade County or in the municipalities of Biscayne Park, Coral Gables, El Portal, Florida City, Homestead, Hialeah, Hialeah Gardens, Medley, Miami, Miami Springs, North Miami, North Miami Beach, Opa-Locka, Pinecrest, South Miami, Sweetwater, Virginia Gardens and West Miami.

To learn more about the program contact the Miami-Dade Answer Center at 305-468-5900, TDD 305-468-5402.

Water Safety Tips

By Roman Bas

With its abundant of bodies of water and residential swimming pools, the state of Florida ranks third in the country in drowning fatalities, and Miami-Dade County leads the state. Based on these alarming statistics the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department is urging all of our residents to be aware of the need to practice caution around the water, especially where children are concerned.



Miami-Dade County Parks offers swimming lessons at many of its facilities.

Florida drowning statistics reveal that toddlers under the age of five lead all age groups in drowning-related fatalities. Backyard pools are the most common bodies of water in which drowning occur. For infants under the age of 1, however, the most common place for drowning is the household bathtub.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue offers the following drowning prevention tips:

- Never leave a child alone near water at the pool, beach or in the tub. A tragedy can occur in seconds.
- Remove all toys in and around the pool when not in use. Toys can attract children to the pool.
- Pool barriers offer added protection against drowning.
- Enroll children over age three in swimming lessons taught by qualified instructors.

Teach your children these key swimming rules:

1. Always swim with a buddy.
2. Don't dive into unknown bodies of water. Jump feet first to avoid hitting your head on a shallow bottom.
3. Don't push or jump on others.

GOOD *Service*

Hurricane Andrew – Ten years later

Roofing inspector recalls Andrew's wrath

By Miriam Rossi

He experienced the worst and best of Hurricane Andrew ten years ago on that memorable date of August 24, 1992. Kenneth (Kenny) Everett, Roofing Inspections Section Supervisor with the Miami-Dade Building Department, was battling Hurricane Andrew's sustained winds and rain that were shattering the second floor windows of his home in Homestead as his wife and four children were huddling in a safe space on the first floor. The violent winds and gusts had ripped the plywood boarding from the windows. Hurricane Andrew made a direct hit on southern Florida with sustained winds of 145 m.p.h. and gusts up to 175 m.p.h.

For approximately five hours, as the winds and rain continued shattering more glass and pelting the walls, Everett's family was in constant motion to stay safe. At one point, his youngest son, then ten years old, was cut on his foot by the shattered glass from the windows. His foot was bleeding at the same time that his dad was battling the effects of the winds and rain on the house and as he tried to hold on to the doors.



The aftermath of Hurricane Andrew was not any easier. "I felt fortunate that my family was safe," said Everett. In comparison to his neighbors, the Everett house was the least damaged. For one thing, the roof structure and sheathing were intact. The hurricane winds, though, had lifted the roof tiles and left them in crumbled piles. Upon closer inspection, the tile roof resembled a crushed mess as if a giant had used both colossal hands to form piles of broken tile. The house was built tough with cement block reinforced masonry construction providing a safe exterior.

The work of cleaning out the house was just beginning. Wet and muddy carpets and furniture were swept then taken outside to dry yet more rains would come and dampen them again. Like most of the homes in Hurricane Andrew's path, the contents that had been ruined were disposed of either in a dumpster, if available, or in trash piles that lined the front of the houses in

the neighborhood. These trash piles stood up to six feet tall lining most streets and resembling a winter snowstorm.

During the day, Everett reported back to work, which was difficult to find as landmarks and streetlights were blown away or non-functioning. The inspectors met at the Office of Emergency Management after the Hurricane. He was then assigned to work from the South Dade Government Center, which was also hit by Hurricane Andrew. There were trailers placed behind the parking lot of the building where crowds of devastated Dade County residents would wait in lines in the hot sun to obtain information on how to repair their roofs; learn about different types of approved roofing products; request roofing inspections and ask various roofing questions. Everett and a handful of inspectors would obtain as much information and samples of shingles and other approved roof products in order to show the public the items needed and how repairs should be performed. He and his staff would typically work 10 hours per day, six days a week.

Conducting roofing inspections also proved to be difficult as the houses were hard to find. Many homes had lost their street address markings and were hidden behind huge piles of debris.



Hurricane Andrew caused a total of \$20-billion property damage, destroyed 28,066 homes and left 160,000 people homeless.

There was also a lack of landmarks for many areas. In addition, the inspectors were subject to flat tires on their county trucks from the debris. When they were conducting property inspections, it would typically take them hours before they could move on to the next scheduled site, as residents would run to see them and ask questions as well as request that inspections also be conducted of their roofs.

While at work during the day helping others to rebuild, Everett's in-laws would help make minor repairs to the Everett's house as they, too were being lodged there due to their residence being destroyed. "There were no bills to pay as there was no mail delivery and no electricity so you just had the immediate necessities of life to take care of," he added. Eventually, the

electricity was returned to his neighborhood and the bare mango trees in his backyard blossomed again. His beehive farm, which was swept by the Hurricane, was replaced by new beehives so he could continue his hobby of collecting honey. His South Dade neighborhood today has minimum reminders of that fateful August day ten years ago. In retrospect, the hard work, dedication and extraordinary efforts of many county employees like Everett, and residents, typifies Miami-Dade County's community spirit in times of need as we are more than county employees, we are your neighbors.

New Airport procedures ease the flow for international connecting passengers

By Inson Kim

The Miami-Dade Aviation Department began new procedures to expedite the way international-to-international transit passengers are processed when they fly through Miami International Airport.

Under the revised procedure, carriers arrive, international-to-international transit (ITI) passengers deplane their aircraft and are inspected by Immigration and Naturalization Service. Once cleared by INS, passengers proceed, via secure corridors, to intransit lounges, where they will await connecting flights.

"We are grateful that INS and Customs revised their procedures, which will offer relief for our international to international passengers and the carriers that serve them without compromising security," said County Manager Steve Shiver.

Over 490,000 international-to-international transit passengers utilized Miami International Airport in 2000. In 2001, that figure dropped to 280,000 with the introduction of the lengthier ITI procedure after September 11, 2001.



Immigration and Naturalization Service inspector processes international passenger at Miami International Airport.

The Half-Penny sales tax: Keeping promises ... saving lives

By Conchita Ruiz-Topinka

In 1991, Miami-Dade County voters overwhelmingly passed a half-penny sales tax dedicated to "the operation, maintenance and administration of Jackson Memorial Hospital to provide increased health care services." The voters' message was clear: Be sure that Jackson and the Public Health Trust have the financial strength to continue providing timely, compassionate care to all county residents regardless of their ability to pay.

Because of the dedicated sales tax and the ongoing support of the Miami-Dade County Commission, Jackson Memorial Hospital – in partnership with the University of Miami School of Medicine – has been able to maintain its ranking as one of the best medical institutions in the United States, ensuring that high-quality public healthcare services remain close to home.

An investment in the health of the entire Miami-Dade community, the half-penny sales tax:

- Maintains expensive Jackson Health System programs like the Ryder Trauma Center, UM/JM Burn Center, neonatal care, transplant services and spinal cord rehabilitation that serve the entire community regardless of ability to pay.



Last year, more than 3,500 patients were treated at the Ryder Trauma Center, the hub of a countywide emergency response system. About 70 percent were injured in motor vehicle accidents. Since its founding in 1992, the Ryder Trauma Center has developed a worldwide reputation for clinical excellence, providing trauma victims with life-saving services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- Saves lives by investing in new equipment, hiring new staff and providing easier access to Jackson's diagnostic and treatment services. The Taylor Breast Health Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital offers an effective approach to early detection, diagnosis and timely treatment of breast cancer – a disease that will affect one in nine women during her lifetime. "We are seeing more than double the number of patients at the Breast Health Center than when we started in 1991," says Pedro Velez, M.D., medical director, "and we have been able to diagnose most cancers in earlier stages."

- Frees up money to expand Jackson's primary care network, which now has clinics throughout Miami-Dade County. Jackson Health System's 11 primary care centers serve patients throughout Miami-Dade County. Last year, there were more than 193,000 visits to these centers, and demand continues to increase. These centers offer preventive and routine medical care including prenatal and well-baby care and immunizations. To find the center nearest you, call Jackson Health System at 305-585-6000.

Port of Miami readies for International PortFest

By Trenae Floyd

The Dante B. Fasel Port of Miami-Dade will once again be the backdrop for a major event designed to showcase the importance of the maritime industry and the contribution that it makes to Miami-Dade County. On Saturday, September 28, the Port of Miami will host the International PortFest.

The event, a fun-filled family-oriented attraction on the Port's picturesque waterfront, will include cultural exhibits and goods from the United States, Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, and Caribbean.



At booths, such as this from Nigeria, Port of Miami partners will showcase their products for all to see.

In a celebration of the Port's valuable contributions to international trade and tourism, PortFest will unveil its *Ports-Of-Call International Village*. These exciting and colorful pavilions will showcase trade products and consumer technology, tourist information, arts and crafts, life entertainment, wine-tasting, and authentic foods from Thailand, Nigeria, France, Spain, Uruguay, and Barbados.

More than a celebration of international trade and tourism, PortFest aims at opening the eyes of local residents, visitors and businesses to the current economic value and financial contribution of the Miami-Dade County Seaport Department to the regional economy. By actively promoting an appreciation of the port's heritage and resources, the festival also aims at building community pride and a shared commitment to solidifying our position as the "Cruise Capital of the World" and "Gateway to the Americas."

Ryder Trauma Center

By Laura Weinsoff

Trauma. It happens every day, yet people never think it will happen to them. Each year, an average of 3,500 Miami-Dade residents sustain injuries severe enough to require either air or ground transportation to the Ryder Trauma Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital. And such was the case with Lisa Mastellari.



The State-of-the-art Ryder Trauma Center has four operating rooms that stand ready to save lives.

Lisa Mastellari doesn't remember the March night of her accident – or anything else for the following two months. She had just left work around 7 p.m. when her car was hit by another vehicle. Rushed unconscious to the Ryder Trauma Center, she suffered from serious internal injuries to her liver and bladder along with two broken arms, a broken foot and shattered pelvis. "My doctors said just keeping me alive was a miracle," said Mastellari, a Miami resident. "They had to open me up and repair my abdomen. I was in a coma for six weeks."

While family members came from Panama to her bedside, Ryder surgeons took skin grafts from her leg to cover her abdomen. By the time Lisa recovered consciousness in May, the healing process was underway. "I spent the next six months in the hospital with that thin skin," she said. "They used mesh to help the skin heal, because my muscles had been cut so much in the surgeries." She had rehabilitation therapy as well, and 13 months later, she returned to work. "I remember the nurses and doctors were all very nice," she said. "I'm very grateful to the Ryder Trauma Center."



One of the many distinctions between an emergency room and a trauma center is the integration of operating facilities.

Unique features such as the ability to warm the room to a maximum of 85 degrees support innovative surgical techniques such as they use of laparoscopy on trauma patients. This surgery is used, for instance, to see if the patient suffered internal injuries that showed no external signs. Performing the laparoscopy above are Patricia M. Byers, M.D., associate professor of surgery, and resident Irene Brown, M.D.

Opened in 1992, the Ryder Trauma Center was built with \$27 million in private donations and is maintained, in part, by the half-penny sales tax. The Ryder Trauma Center is the county's only adult/pediatric Level 1 trauma center.

DIRECT *from the District*

Commissioner Jimmy L. Morales - District 7

Commissioner Jimmy L. Morales Goes South

Residents of the southern end of District 7 will no longer be traveling downtown to visit with their county commissioner.

On Saturday, May 4, 2002, Commissioner Jimmy L. Morales officially opened the doors to the latest addition to the District 7 family. The south district office, located at 6130 Sunset Drive, is now available to the residents of East Kendall, Pinecrest and South Miami. The south district office is a direct result of the redistricting process, which became effective on January 1, 2002. Staff will be on hand on Wednesdays and available for scheduled appointments.

South Miami residents got their first taste of working with Commissioner Morales when the sidewalks from SW 57th Avenue – 72nd Avenue on Miller Drive were finally resurfaced. Until recently, sidewalks did not exist in some parts of the neighborhood and portions of the existing sidewalks had deteriorated significantly. The residents spoke up and Commissioner Morales listened. University of Miami student set things in motion after she observed a fellow student having trouble accessing the street. Thanks to the hard work of Marilu Construction and the concerned citizens, pedestrians are now able to travel safely through the neighborhood," said Commissioner Morales.

You can reach a member of Commissioner Morales' staff at: 305-375-5680 (downtown); 305-529-0599 (central district office) or 305-668-7414 (south district office) or email Commissioner Morales at district7@miamidade.gov.



Commissioner Morales, staff and friends, during the ribbon-cutting.

Commissioner Katy Sorenson - District 8



Transportation

With traffic congestions getting worse each day, Miami-Dade Commissioner Katy Sorenson has supported several efforts to begin to address the problem. "The first thing we must do is to identify a dedicated source of funding for public transit. If we do not, we risk losing millions of dollars in federal funding," said Commissioner Sorenson. The County Commission recently approved a resolution that would allow Miami-Dade voters to decide whether to impose a one-half penny sales tax for mass transit. "I urge you to support this issue on November 5," said Commissioner Sorenson. "Another thing we must do is to think regionally."

Commissioner Sorenson is the Chair of the Regional Transportation Organization (RTO), which includes representation from Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties. The RTO has been working on establishing a regional transit authority to obtain funds for transit projects that link the counties. Recently, the Miami-Dade County Commission joined the Broward and Palm Beach County Commissions and approved Commissioner Sorenson's resolution to convert Tri-Rail to a Regional Transit Authority that will address tri-county traffic congestion, transit-oriented development for community revitalization, increased access to jobs through interconnected transit systems, efficient access to the ports, and making our three communities more livable.

Incorporation

Palmetto Bay is set to become Miami-Dade's newest city. On September 10, the residents of the proposed city will vote on the proposed city charter and elections will be held in November. Congratulations to the Charter Commission of Mary Cagle, Ed Ludovici, Tom Ringel, Paul Schwiep and Steve Yenzer!

Commissioners Katy Sorenson and Jimmy Morales, District 7 have established a Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) to study the possible incorporation of East Kendall. The committee will take testimony from the public and meet with county staff to determine the impact of incorporation on residents within the proposed boundaries and also on the rest of the county. The whole process will take approximately a year and a half. All meetings are open to the public, publicly advertised, and take place at the Kendall Branch Library, 9101 SW 97th Avenue.

Commissioner Sorenson has also established a Municipal Advisory Committee for the proposed incorporation of the Cutler Ridge area. The meetings are held at the South Dade Government Center, 2 Floor Conference Room, 10710 SW 211th Street and are open to the public.

Quality Neighborhood Improvement Program (QNIP)

District 8 has received \$7.5 million dollars this year for street drainage projects, road resurfacing, and parks improvements. Parks projects scheduled to begin are Lakes by the Bay, Coral Reef, Arvida, Continental and Gloria Floyd Elementary School. Cherry Grove Park has been completed and construction has begun on the Cutler Ridge Park Community Center.

Commissioner Dennis C. Moss - District 9

Miami-Dade Commissioners Dennis C. Moss and Natacha Seijas visited with ASPIRA – a South Florida Youth Leadership Charter School – in May 2002. They had a chance to meet with students and answer many and varied questions about government. The students appreciated their openness and the fact that the duo were able to reinforce the school's message to their students about elected officials being "regular people" who are accessible and easy to speak with.



Commissioner Javier D. Souto - District 10

Commissioner Javier Souto Promotes Soccer Programs



Miami-Dade Commissioner Javier D. Souto, District 10, held a press conference on May 31, at the new Kendall Soccer Park located at SW 127th Avenue and SW 80th Street to promote Miami-Dade County's soccer programs. The announcement was made to coincide with the commencement of the World Cup Soccer Series. According to Commissioner Souto, "This is a good time to showcase the new Kendall Soccer Park and raise public awareness of the sport of soccer and the opportunities that are available in Miami-Dade County to assist in developing young soccer players."

Commissioner Joe Martinez - District 11

Commissioner Joe A. Martinez recognizes student performance improvement

New "Turnaround Awards" program rewards District 11 students with bicycles

A total of 14 students in the Miami-Dade County School System who have improved their performance received a special prize thanks to Commissioner Joe A. Martinez's new initiative, the "Turnaround Awards" program. Martinez personally presented a new bicycle to one student from each of the 14 Miami-Dade public schools participating in the program. The winning students were selected by their own school for their incredible strides for improving their grades and conduct.



Commissioner José "Pepe" Cancio, Sr. - District 12

Civic leader José "Pepe" Cancio sworn in as County Commissioner for District 12

Former Doral Community Council member José "Pepe" Cancio Sr. took the Oath of Office as Miami-Dade County Commissioner, representing District 12 on May 7.



Governor Jeb Bush appointed Cancio, a successful businessman and consumer activist, to the Board on May 3, 2002. Cancio has worked in the cement industry for four decades and is president and CEO of Central Concrete Supermix Inc.

Cancio, 62, was born in Havana, Cuba. He attended the Havana Business School from 1958 through 1959. He immigrated to the United States in 1960. He lives in Doral where he served on the Community Council from 1996 to 2000. Cancio is a member of the Bay of Pigs 2506 Brigade, and volunteered in the U.S. Army during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He is married to Mariana Castañeda Cancio, has four children and 13 grandchildren. Since his inauguration to the Board, Cancio has played an active role in his district. He currently participates in the Ways and Means, Transportation, Infrastructure, Environmental and the Unincorporated Municipal Services Area committees.

Mural commemorates activist Merline Matthews

By Javier Morejón

Friends and family of Merline Matthews joined Miami-Dade Housing Agency (MDHA) staff and community leaders at a celebration marking the unveiling of a mural commemorating the late activist on May 20, 2002 at the Merline Matthews Community Center, located at 5400 NW 22nd Avenue in Brownsville.

Merline Matthews was a longtime community activist and a fighter for residents' rights who passed away in 2000. She was born in the Bahamas in 1918 and moved



Group Photo (from left to right) Jo Ann Evans; Alphonso Brewster and Rudy Perez (MDHA); Annette Marshall and Shirley Butler (daughters of Merline Matthews); Mike Mandel (artist; Maria Mayea (MDHA); Velma Farley (Matthews' daughter); and Maceo Matthews (grandson of Matthews)

to Miami at the age of 13, eventually marrying, raising six children, and adopting two others. "It is such an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of an individual who spent the better part of her life helping others," said Alphonso Brewster, MDHA deputy director.

The 6 feet x 4 feet 7 inch Merline Matthews mural consists of 15,840 hand-cut porcelain mosaic tiles. It is located on the east side of the community center and is clearly visible from 22nd Avenue. The mural was created by artist Mike Mandel and replaces an earlier portrait, painted by George Dawson, which had become damaged due to exposure over time. "This is a nice opportunity for me, now that I know who she was and what she stood for, to translate that into something that will help her community. It's great. This will last as long as this building is here, and I'm proud to be able to continue her legacy."



Mural close-up

Coconut Grove Learning Center allows residents to learn new skills

By Sherri McLeod

A community celebration including an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony took place recently as staff from the United States Department of HUD, the Miami-Dade Housing Agency (MDHA), and representatives from various community partners including Hands on Miami and the Coconut Grove Local Development Corporation, celebrated the grand opening of the Coconut Grove Learning Center, located at 3801 Percival Avenue. The opening was the result of an ongoing partnership between the agencies involved and the community.

MDHA's Director of Resident and Economic Development, Joan Tyler, was glad to see the center open. "This group worked long, hard, and tedious hours and moved every obstacle to be able to get this center to open today," Tyler said. "I thank the U.S. Department of HUD for the initiative and for choosing the Coconut Grove area, the United Way of Miami-Dade for donating the computers, and Hands on Miami for providing volunteers." Tyler explained that the journey to self-sufficiency and homeownership began with centers like these, which helped provide residents with the necessary tools to improve their skills and get better jobs that would allow them to successfully complete this process.

The Coconut Grove Learning Center will be open during the week as well as on Saturdays. Public housing residents will be able to come to the center and use the computers for study and classes and take courses on Internet usage, website development, and networking. In addition, the learning center will also offer after school programs for children and teenagers, daytime programs for adults and seniors, homework assistance. This is the fourth learning center to open at MDHA's public housing communities. Other centers are located at Liberty Square, Perrine Gardens, and Rainbow. The learning center was funded with Drug Elimination Grants and in-kind services.

"This will really help the community by giving the residents employment skills and better education that will enable them to get better jobs," said Maggie Gross, the

administrator and coordinator of the program. "Eventually that will lead to homeownership for the residents."

Residents interested in obtaining information about the center's programs or registering can call 305-569-6700.



Residents join Miami-Dade Housing Agency staff in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Geographic Information System team member wins Corporate Run

By Jane Robinson

This year's Corporate Run should have been named the County Run. That's because the winner of this competitive event wasn't a corporate exec but one of our own fellow employees at Miami-Dade County...Josh Brashears!

Josh is a member of the eGovernment Department's Geographic Information System (GIS) team. Originally from Chicago, Josh is a grad of Penn State, who was recruited by the eGov Department through an online Job Clearinghouse (proving the theory that online recruitment works!) Josh packed his bags, family and running shoes, and headed down to Miami-Dade.

As a GIS Analyst/Programmer, Josh is involved in many projects that make geographic information available to county departments and the public. He is currently working to make information available on miamidade.gov via the "My Neighborhood" application, including crime statistics and sexual predators within geographic areas of Miami-Dade County.

Since moving to South Florida, Josh has won several races, most for community causes, but his real inspiration is close to home. His younger sister, Catie, has Down's syndrome. "Just seeing how well she deals with day-to-day challenges, and so cheerfully, is an inspiration to me," says Josh.

Congratulations to Josh for this significant accomplishment and you can be sure we'll be cheering you on at the finish line next year!



E-government employee Josh Brashears took first place in the Corporate Run.

Water distribution chief named to water trade organization

By Frank Calderon

Luis Aguiar, water distribution chief for the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department, has been named to the International Council of the American Water Works Association (AWWA). Aguiar, appointed in June, will serve until 2005.



Luis Aguiar, third from left, supervises a water distribution maintenance crew performing repairs on a chlorine injection station at Biscayne Island.

Part of Aguiar's duties with the Council will include: developing and coordinating AWWA's international policies and activities; promoting AWWA's participation in the global drinking water community, and as stimulating international organizations and members to participate with AWWA; and representing the interests of international members in the governance of AWWA.

The Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department is one of the largest public utilities in the United States, serving approximately 1.9 million persons. AWWA is one of the most respected organizations

in the water industry, with more than 50,000 members worldwide, so being asked to sit on one of its councils is a remarkable accomplishment. Way to go, Luis!

Coalition receives grant to improve health care access for the uninsured

Public Health Trust plays lead role in collaborative outreach initiative

By Conchita Ruiz-Topinka

A coalition of Miami-Dade healthcare providers, led by the Public Health Trust, has received a \$1.532 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The grant is designed to make it easier for low-income families, immigrants and other uninsured residents to receive vital healthcare services.

"This collaborative approach is essential to addressing some of our community's most pressing healthcare issues," says Ira Clark, president and CEO of the Jackson Health System, the county's primary public healthcare safety net provider. "This grant demonstrates that great things can happen when various organizations pull together for the betterment of all."

Larry Gage, president of the National Association of Public Hospitals (NAPH) says the South Florida collaborative approach is a community benefit. "The Community Access Program is an important new federal grant program aimed at improving the ability of different kinds of safety net providers to more effectively coordinate their services and activities. This will improve care for the uninsured today and lay the groundwork for more integrated systems in the future. Jackson Memorial Hospital should be especially congratulated because they have received the largest grant awarded in this round of funding, and one of the largest grants of any NAPH member hospital," said Gage.

This coalition has designed a program, the Community Access Program (CAP) to reach out to the more than 450,000 uninsured individuals in Miami-Dade County — nearly one out of every four residents under the age of 65. The CAP collaborative seeks to improve access to healthcare services by:

- Expanding eligibility screening for public insurance programs. The goal of this large-scale effort is to communicate the need for insurance and the availability of publicly funded or subsidized insurance programs.
- Aggressively reaching out to the uninsured to link them to resources that are available to uninsured patients. This initiative will increase the number of sites with information on various federal, state and local insurance programs.
- Coordinating care for uninsured patients with chronic conditions like asthma, cardiovascular disease and mental illnesses. These patients will be linked to "medical homes" that would provide care according to disease management protocols and stress the importance of primary care.
- Creating a pilot indigent health benefits plan for South Miami-Dade residents that would provide integrated health care to the uninsured. This program could then be expanded countywide.

"We expect this program will increase the number of individuals with health insurance and increase the use of primary and preventive care among the uninsured," said Joe Rogers, executive director, Jackson Health System Division of Managed Care. "Increased access to insurance and health services will lead to improved health outcomes."

Currently, uninsured Miami-Dade residents face difficulty navigating a complicated process for obtaining publicly funded insurance, determining where to go for primary and preventive care, and finding accessible specialty treatment, according to Rogers.

As the county's healthcare public safety net, The Public Health Trust, which operates the public Jackson Health System including Jackson Memorial Hospital, is the lead agency in the coalition. Other partners include Health Choice Network, Miami Beach Community Health Center, Miami Children's Hospital, Community Voices-Miami, Florida Department of Children and Families, Miami-Dade County Health Department, Human Services Coalition, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, University of Miami School of Medicine, University of Miami School of Nursing, Health Council of South Florida, The Alliance for Human Services, Camillus Health Concern, Economic Opportunity-Family Health Center, CHI of South Dade and Helen B. Bentley, Coconut Grove Health Center. For more information call the Community Access Program at 1-866-CAP-5070.

Miami-Dade County Resident Satisfaction Survey

A sample of 3,000 Miami-Dade County residents will be randomly selected to complete a survey on how the county provides its services. The Hay Group, an internationally known survey research firm, is assisting the county in this effort. This survey will assess the level of satisfaction with county services that exist among county residents and identify issues that affect quality of life in our community. The results will be used to prioritize service improvements. Preliminary results are expected to be available in late September and will be featured in the winter issue of the *County Citizen*. For more information feel free to contact Christa Erml at the Office of Performance Improvement, 305-349-6150.

NEWS *and Notes*

Justice in Motion Mobile hits the streets

The Miami-Dade Department of Human Services (DHS) and the State Attorney's Office, recently dedicated the "Justice In Motion" mobile office bus.



The vehicle is a joint venture between the State Attorney's Office and DHS involving a Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) grant from the Attorney General's Office. The purpose of the mobile office is for State Attorney and DHS Advocates for Victims personnel to visit the homes of elderly and physically challenged victims and

witnesses for the purpose of taking statements as part of investigations, completing victim compensation claims, and providing other victim services.

The Justice in Motion Mobile office will also be used for community awareness programs such as health and informational fairs and training activities.



Ribbon cutting marks the start of the Justice in Motion Mobile service.

Mayor Alex Penelas kicks off library summer reading program

Mayor Alex Penelas kicked off the Miami-Dade Public Library's System's annual summer reading program in June to encourage children and their families to discover the wonderful resources at their public libraries during the summer vacation. Youth, ages 18 and under, are invited to participate through August 10. This year's theme is Your Library from A to Z.

Students who read for a minimum of four hours each week will be eligible to participate in weekly drawings for fun and exciting reading rewards. Even tiny tots can participate when a parent/guardian reads to them for a minimum of four hours. By signing up for the program, participants will also receive an entry form to win one of four Grand Prizes:

- Busch Gardens — Two-day admission pass for four plus hotel
- Cloverleaf Bowling Lanes — Birthday party bash for 10
- Miami Seaquarium — Swim with the Dolphins gift certificate
- Florida Marlins Baseball — VIP Night

In addition to qualifying for the weekly drawings and the grand prizes, children will be treated to storytelling, puppet shows, crafts and plenty of other programs geared to spark their imaginations. Hurry to your closest Miami-Dade library for a chance to read and win.



Mayor Alex Penelas accompanies young library patrons as they read.

For additional information call 305-375-BOOK or visit www.wdpls.org.

Cool off at Larry & Penny Thompson Park

The whole family can have a splashing good time this summer at the Larry & Penny Thompson Park water slide and beach, 12451 SW 184th Street, Miami. The park is 270 acres of natural South Florida woodland with a 22-acre freshwater lake. Park patrons can enjoy a variety of amenities including a first class campground with full electrical and water hookups, fishing pier, nine picnic pavilions, a playground, a 2.5-mile bridle trail and a bike path. There's also a concession stand that sells cold drinks and ice cream.



Three mammoth water slides carved into a rock mountain spell triple the fun for kids of all ages. Each slide offers a different sensation as sliders spill into a cool refreshing pool. There's also a sandy white beach and clear blue lake that visitors boast is "the ideal inland swimming spot."

The slide and beach is open 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., seven days a week through August 25 and will also be open for Labor Day weekend, August 31- September 2.

Admission to the slide and beach is \$3 for adults; \$2 for children (ages 3-17); and \$1.50 for seniors (over age 61). Individuals must be at least four feet tall to ride the slide. Beach only, admission is \$2 for adults, \$1.50 for children (ages 3-17); and \$1.25 for seniors (over age 61).

Tropical Park hosts national track event

Miami-Dade's Tropical Park was the site for the prestigious 2002 USA Track and Field (USATF) Youth Athletics Championships July 3-7. The event attracted 6,000 competitors along with their families, coaches, track officials and sponsors.

Next year, Miami-Dade Parks will also host the 2003 USA Track & Field National Junior Olympics at Tropical Park from July 29 - August 3. Officials anticipate up to 10,000 athletes and guests.

"We are delighted to have been selected to host these two esteemed events. The Parks Department is committed to providing a meaningful, family-oriented athletic experience for youth and their families while creating a positive economic impact," said Miami-Dade County Manager Steve Shiver, adding that the Parks Department's own track team has participated in these national meets for more than 20 years.

The USATF, the national governing body for the Olympic sports of track and field, race walking and long distance running, runs the world's largest and most visible developmental program. Held annually, the Track & Field Youth Athletics Championships and the Track & Field National Junior Olympics are open to youth ages 7-18. Olympic Gold Medallists Maurice Greene and Marion Jones began their track and field careers in these USATF meets.



100-meter Olympic Gold Medallist and World Record Holder Maurice Greene watches the race that made him famous during Miami-Dade Parks' press conference at the Miami Airport Marriott on May 18, which announced Tropical Park as the site for two prestigious USA Track & Field (USATF) events.

Farmworker youth are recognized for their community contributions

By María Garza

The Step Ahead to Success, Youth Farmworker Program recently recognized and honored the first group of participants to complete the program since its inception in 2000. The honored participants completed requirements ranging from after-school tutoring to job site visits, leadership training, team building, conflict resolution and community service among many others. The youth participants fulfilled a commitment they made over two years ago to stay in school, improve their grades and serve their community.

Various community leaders from the county, state, municipalities and School Board joined the graduating farmworker youth participants wishing them a bright future and encourages them to continue working to achieve their major life goals. In particular County Manager, Steve Shiver complemented the students on their achievements and shared with them his own experiences growing up in Homestead and graduating from high school in that community.

A special recognition was made to the parents of the graduating youth. All the parents who were present at the ceremony did so by missing valuable hours of labor in the fields and nurseries of South Dade. Yet for them it was the most special of days to see their children being recognized for their achievements and positive contributions to the community.

The Step Ahead to Success Youth Farmworker Program will soon begin recruiting participants for next year. For additional information on this program, contact program staff at 305-245-5865.



Youth Farmworker Program participants are recognized.

CALENDAR

of Events

EXHIBITS

Thursday, August 15, 2002

5-8:30 p.m. - Miami Art Museum -
101 W Flagler Street
6-6:30 p.m. - Guided tour of *Ultrabaroque*
exhibit

7:30-8 p.m. - Artist and writer Gean Moreno
will comment on the *Ultra-
baroque* exhibition with a
talk in the galleries entitled
"Cracks in the Yellow Brick
Road: Complicating the Narratives
of Development."



Through September 14

Main Library (Auditorium) - 101 West Flagler Street
The Miami Alphabet, A - Z

The look of letters has inspired the creative spirit
since monks were trained as copyists in the Middle
Ages. The 52 Miami artists in this exhibition have
created an amazing variety of capital and lower
case letters. Their fanciful interpretations of the
Roman alphabet run the visual gamut from
representational to abstract and conceptual. The
Miami alphabet in all its diversity is a wonderful
statement about our community and its creative
ambiance.

Through September 14

Main Library (Lobby) - 101 West Flagler Street

The Miami Alphabet, The Gs & Qs

Graphic artists from Miami-Dade County have
created the letters G and Q as font standards in this

exhibition. As artists working constantly with words,
they have responded to this invitational exhibit
with historical knowledge of typesetting and graphic
design, but also with highly developed individual
aesthetics. They are the inheritors of the traditions
of the medieval copyists, early engravers and
typesetters.

The Roman Alphabet, a Historical Selection from South Florida Collections

The items in this exhibition were selected for their
look. From facsimiles of early manuscripts created
to honor the word "God" to ABC books to recent
graphics fashioned to sell a product, the design of
letters can speak volumes and be as much a device
of mood as the words they make. This very brief
selection is designed to encourage appreciation and
further examination of the history of our writing
system.

Through September 15

North Dade Regional
Alphabet Books

Artist and teacher Brian Reedy worked with his
students at R.R. Moton Middle School to produce
these unique alphabet books. The ABC book is
usually a child's first introduction to words. With
patience and encourage-
ment, the journey toward
learning begins with un-
locking the meaning
behind the 26 shapes
and their sounds that form
words that fill books which
fill libraries and leads,
hopefully, to the love of
information. The books
are displayed with the
individual pages separated
for maximum viewing.



SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2002 - YOUR LIBRARY FROM A TO Z

Saturday, July 27

11:00 a.m. - Coral Gables Branch
"J" is for Juggling and Clowning with Mr. Funnybones:
Join professional entertainer, Mr. Funnybones,
as he uses his juggling and clowning skills to spark
the imagination and tickle the funny bones.
11:00 a.m. - Kendall Branch
"M" is for Magic Show with The Not-So Tall Tale
Tellers: A funny magic show with lots of audience
participation for kids of all ages.
11:00 a.m. - North Dade Regional
2:00 p.m. - Miami Lakes Branch
"S" is for Stories from Around the World with Carrie
Sue Ayvar: Guest storyteller Carrie Sue Ayvar
fascinates audiences with her tales from many lands.

Saturday, August 10

11:00 a.m. - Key Biscayne Branch
"W" is for Wee Care Wildlife: Feel the thrill of the
wild at your library.
Wee Care Wildlife expert displays native Florida
animals and discusses their habitats and the
impact that humans have had on those habitats.
11:00 a.m. - Coral Gables Branch
"F" is for Fairy: Meet the Pink Fairy, a truly sweet
and kind fairy. Her songs, music, magic balloon art
and face-painting will delight kids of all ages.
2:00 p.m. - Edison Branch
"K" is for Kids in Creative Arts: Dance, movement,
arts and crafts and more. Bring out the artist in you
with Kids in Creative Arts, Inc.

CUT

it Out

Emergencies 911

Police Non-Emergency305-4 POLICE
Fire Non-Emergency.....786-331-5200

Answer Center

(Open M-F, 8am-8pm)305-468-5900
Animal Services Unit.....305-884-1101
Bus and Rail Information.....305-770-3131
Center for Employment Hotline ...305-375-5725
Community Councils305-375-2842
Consumer Protection Hotline.....305-375-3677
Consumer Service Switchboard ...305-375-1250
County Manager.....305-375-1032
Jackson Health System305-585-1111
Libraries305-375-BOOK
Park & Recreation.....305-755-7800
Parking Violations305-275-1133
Mosquito Control.....305-592-1186
Traffic Signals Out.....305-592-3580

Team Metro Neighborhood Service Centers

Downtown.....305-375-4845
North Central305-626-7976
Caleb Center305-636-2333
Northwest305-557-2171
Kendall305-270-4979
South Dade.....305-234-1510
Melrose305-638-7231
University305-222-2133
Northeast.....305-947-9858
West305-480-1700

miamidade.gov 

Alex Penelas, Mayor
Board of County Commissioners
Senator Gwen Margolis, Chairperson

Betty T. Ferguson
District 1
Dorrian D. Rolle
District 2
Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler
District 3
Senator Gwen Margolis
District 4
Bruno A. Barreiro
District 5
Rebeca Sosa
District 6
Jimmy L. Morales
District 7

Katy Sorenson
District 8
Dennis C. Moss
District 9
Senator Javier D. Souto
District 10
Joe A. Martinez
District 11
Jose "Pepe" Cancio Sr.
District 12
Natacha Seijas
District 13

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of Courts
Steve Shiver, County Manager
Robert A. Ginsburg, County Attorney



Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment
and services and does not discriminate on the basis of disability.

CountyCitizen

We're more than county employees, we're your neighbors 